

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06027 272107Z

67

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EA-07 NEA-10

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /124 W
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O 271900Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1478

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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MEXICO CITY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, PFOR, PGOV

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: US PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REFERENCE: GENEVA 5975 AND MYERSON-FELDMAN TELCON

1. SUMMARY: AT THE END OF A FULL DAY OF ACTIVITY ON JULY 27, THERE ARE SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS ABOUT OUR LATEST PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS; CONTINUED RESISTANCE APPARENTLY LED BY CUBA, NIGERIA AND MEXICO; AND THE SITUATION FUNDAMENTALLY REMAINS UNPREDICTABLE. THE DELEGATION WILL SOON HAVE TO HAVE GUIDANCE COVERING SEVERAL POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES SINCE A FORMAL RESOLUTION MAY HAVE TO BE TABLED IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SOME TIME ON THURSDAY
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06027 272107Z

JULY 29. END SUMMARY.

2. AS FORESHADOWED BY REFTEL, SEVERAL FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS--IRAN IN PARTICULAR--PRESENTED THE LATEST US DRAFT TEXT TO THE G-77 ON TUESDAY MORNING. THE READ-OUT WE GOT FROM THAT DISCUSSION WAS LARGELY POSITIVE ALTHOUGH NIGERIA WAS REPORTEDLY HARSH IN ITS COMMENTS AND SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS RAISED HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC POINTS. THE G-77 ASKED A SMALL DRAFTING GROUP (15 DELEGATIONS) TO EXAMINE THE TEXT MORE CAREFULLY TUESDAY AFTERNOON. WE HAVE MIXED SIGNALS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THAT GROUP WHICH HAS JUST CONCLUDED FOR THE DAY. SEVERAL OF OUR STRONGEST SUPPORTERS HAD TO LEAVE EARLY TO GO TO OTHER MEETINGS. THIS LEFT A RUMP GROUP THAT DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A G-77 COUNTER DRAFT THAT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE US BECAUSE THE MANDATE WOULD BE LIMITED TO PAYMENTS BY TNCs. (SOME PARTICIPANTS IN THE EARLIER BROAD G-77 MEETING TOLD US THAT THEY INTERPRETED THE SENSE OF THE GROUP TO BE THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO WORK ON THE US TEXT RATHER THAN A COUNTER DRAFT.)

3. AT THE REQUEST OF THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR, MYERSON MADE A SHORT PRESENTATION TO A GROUP OF TWELVE AMBASSADORS AT A WORKING LUNCHEON. THE GROUP INCLUDED THE ECOSOC PRESIDENT AND BUREAU PLUS SEVERAL OTHERS. IT THUS COVERED A SPECTRUM OF LATIN AMERICANS, ASIANS, AFRICANS AND SOCIALIST REPRESENTATIVES. THOSE PRESENT EXPRESSED SOME OPTIMISM BUT REFUSED TO MAKE PREDICTIONS ON THE OUTCOME.

4. WHILE WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO DEVELOP MAXIMUM SUPPORT AND MOMENTUM AND, AT THE SAME TIME, CRYSTALIZE THE SITUATION SUFFICIENTLY FOR WASHINGTON TO MAKE NECESSARY DECISIONS ON HANDLING OF THIS MATTER, WE FACE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE A CLIFF-HANGER TO THE VERY END. WE WILL, THEREFORE, NEED SOME DISCRETIONARY LEEWAY AND GUIDANCE COVERING AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL CONTINGENCIES: (A) WHETHER TO TABLE THE US DRAFT FORMALLY IN THE ABSENCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 06027 272107Z

OF ASSURANCE OF A CONSENSUS OUTCOME AND WITH THE CONSEQUENT RISK THAT IT MIGHT BE PUT TO A VOTE AND DEFEATED OR DEFERRED; (B) WHETHER TO AVOID PRESSING THE ISSUE TO A FINAL CONCLUSION AT THIS SESSION OF ECOSOC EITHER BY NOT TABLING A FORMAL RESOLUTION OR BY TRYING TO GET SOME UNDERSTANDING THAT, IF WE TABLE A TEXT, IT WOULD NOT BE ACTED ON NOW; (C) HOW TO REACT IF ONE OR MORE DELEGATIONS DECIDE EITHER TO PUSH A COUNTER DRAFT OR

TO AMEND OUR RESOLUTION TO DEATH. WE REALIZE THAT IT IS
DIFFICULT FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE CLEAR GUIDANCE
IN ADVANCE IN A SITUATION LIKE THE PRESENT ONE, BUT
URGE THAT WE BE COVERED INsofar AS PRACTICABLE. WE
WILL REMAIN IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE AND/OR TELEGRAM.

5. WE BELIEVE THE MAJOR JOB IN CAPITALS HAS ALREADY
BEEN DONE, AND THAT MOST REMAINING PROBLEMS MUST BE
TACKLED IN GENEVA. HOWEVER, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO
GET THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT NOT TO LOBBY AGAINST AND TO ACCEPT
OUR PROPOSAL THIS COULD MAKE A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE. IN THE
CASE OF NIGERIA, WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER A FURTHER APPROACH
IN LAGOS MIGHT BACKFIRE. BUT IN THIS CASE, ALSO, THE
NIGERIAN POSITION COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE. (WE ARE
OF COURSE STILL TALKING WITH BOTH DELS HERE.) ABRAMS

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